From: The IACP
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Subject: IACP"s The Lead: President Awards Medal Of Valor To Public Safety Officers.
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Thursday, May 23, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

President Awards Medal Of Valor To Public Safety Officers

The AP (5/22) reports, "Fourteen public safety officers were awarded the Medal of Valor by President Donald Trump on Wednesday, including eight who responded to a shooting at a southern California polling place. 'Every officer, firefighter and first responder who receives this award embodies the highest ideals of service and sacrifice, character and courage,' Trump said during a White House ceremony." The medal "is the nation's highest honor for bravery by a public safety officer."

Palm Beach County, Florida's Human Trafficking Task Force Has History Of Arrests, Convictions

The Palm Beach (FL) Post (5/22, Whigham) reports from West Palm Beach, Florida, "Before the Jupiter and Martin County day-spa raids that thrust local law-enforcement efforts against human trafficking into the national spotlight, there were cases such as Alston Williams, whom Palm Beach County authorities say forced women to sell their bodies for sex to support his lifestyle." According to the Post, "There were cases such as Ivan Zamora, who used violence and threats to force women from his native Cuba to work as strippers, authorities said in convicting him of labor trafficking and smuggling." Those "are two notable cases among dozens that Palm Beach County's Human Trafficking Task Force has investigated since its formation in 2017," and "while the day-spa investigation has not led to a single human-trafficking arrest, the task force has been credited with 30 arrests and 12 convictions related to the offense – the use of force, fraud or coercion to lure victims and then exploit them for sex acts or labor."

Chicago Tribune: More Than 26,000 Illinoisans Have Lost Gun-Owning Rights

The Chicago Tribune (5/20, Sweeney, Clair, Reyes, Freishtat) reports, "As many as 30,000 guns may still be in the possession of Illinois residents deemed too dangerous to have them, according to a Tribune investigation." The Tribune adds, "In an analysis of data released for the first time, the Tribune found the state has repeatedly failed to ensure that people surrender their weapons and gun permits after their Firearm Owner's Identification cards are revoked, resulting in the breakdown of a system put in place to deter gun violence." According to the Tribune, "In all, nearly 27,000 Illinois residents over the past four years have not informed authorities what they did with their guns after state police stripped their licenses, according to the analysis," and "that means law enforcement has no idea whether 78% of revoked cardholders since 2015 still possess guns."

NYPD Officers On Desk Duty Heading To The Field For Summer

Newsday (NY) (5/22, DeStefano) reports, "Starting Thursday, nearly 300 NYPD cops who normally do desk jobs will be sent into historically high crime areas of the city to help keep violence under control for the summer months, officials said Wednesday." Newsday adds, "Known as 'Summer All-Out,' the initiative is aimed at continuing what officials said is turning out to be another low year for violent crime in New York." Eight police precincts in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens "get the influx of cops, along with two public housing areas and the subway system, said Chief of Department Terence Monahan at a news conference." According to Newsday, "A total of 287 police officers – about 70 more than last year – who normally do administrative jobs have been given quick refresher training on patrol tactics." Officers "will be sent out beginning Thursday and work the streets through Sept. 6 – three weeks longer than previous All-Out programs, Monahan said."

Apply now! The application period is open for the NIJ and IACP's Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Scholarships for Law Enforcement Officers Program.

If you are a mid-career law enforcement officer dedicated to advancing the policing profession through science, who is interested in developing your professional and research capacity, submit your application by **May 31, 2019**.

Visit the LEADS Scholars website for full details about the program and application process.

Connect with the IACP online: **IACP Event Calendar:**

COMMUNITY

Grand Rapids, Michigan Police Seek More Volunteers To Assist Officers

MLive (MI) (5/22, Hicks) reports that the Grand Rapids, Michigan Police Department "relies on more than a dozen volunteers for a handful of tasks that free up time for officers to enforce laws, respond to calls for service, and build relationships in the community," and "as the city is working to expand the responsibilities of volunteers and non-sworn members of the police department to further free up time for officers, there's an active push to recruit more volunteers." The department's volunteer program "aims to strengthen community-police relations and to aid the department with additional ears and eyes in the community." Volunteers "deliver services to neighborhoods and relieve police of duties unrelated to crime, such as abandoned vehicle tagging, parking violation enforcement, graffiti reporting, vacation house checks and senior resident visits." MLive adds, "As of Wednesday, May 22, there were 16 active volunteers in the program," and the department "hopes to double that number. 'The program is perfect for those who are at a point in life where they have some free time to give back to the community and are looking for a meaningful way to improve quality of life for all who call Grand Rapids home,' said Ofc. Ruth Walters, who serves as the department's volunteer coordinator."

CRIME & DRUGS

FBI, Michigan Police Exhume Remains In Effort To Close Homocide Cases

The AP (5/22, Baldor, Burns) reports from Canton Township, Michigan, "Detroit and Michigan state police have exhumed unidentified bodies buried at a cemetery to try close old homicide cases." Detroit police Sgt. Nicole Kirkwood "said investigators exhumed seven sets of remains Wednesday at Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Canton Township." The AP adds, "Police say they're taking DNA samples from the bones and will try to match them to possible missing persons' cases. Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. Sarah Krebs, who heads the state's missing persons unit, says the DNA samples will be sent to the University of North Texas for analysis."

The Detroit News (5/22, Hunter) reports, "Detroit police officers, Michigan State Police troopers and FBI agents on Wednesday exhumed unidentified bodies buried at Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery in an attempt to close old homicide cases." According to the News, "For 24 years, Knollwood Park had a contract with Wayne County to bury cadavers whose identities were not known, although the state in December suspended all new activity at the burial ground after inspectors say they found more than 300 improperly-stored infant and fetal remains in multiple crypts." Detroit police Chief James Craig "said Wednesday's action was unrelated to the cemetery's closure, which stemmed from ongoing investigations into Detroit funeral homes where police found fetal and infant remains were improperly stored or buried. 'This is just trying to get closure on old cases,' Craig said. 'The identity of these bodies is unknown, and since they were buried, DNA technology has advanced a great deal, so you can go back and take a second look.'"

Drug Dogs Could Face Uncertain Future If New York Legalizes Marijuana

USA Today (5/22, Campbell) reports from Cooperstown, New York, "New York's newest police canines are learning their way in a 10,000-square-foot, Colonial-style dormitory nestled deep in the hilly woods off a winding road near Lake Otsego." Skiff, Amber and Kelley, "State Police's three narcotics-dogs-in-training, all named after fallen troopers...have lived there with their handlers since February, learning how to sniff out drugs in a basement obstacle course that includes a simulated three-room apartment, complete with a kitchen." On the wall "is a whiteboard listing all the drugs the dogs are being trained to detect – heroin, cocaine, MDMA, LSD, meth and PCP, among them," but "one common drug, however, is conspicuously absent from the list. Marijuana." USA Today adds, "For the past two rounds of canine training since last year, State Police have opted against

teaching their dogs to sniff out THC, the active ingredient in marijuana." According to USA Today, "The reason for the switch is simple: New York lawmakers are considering legalizing the drug, perhaps as soon as this year," and "the consequences of marijuana legalization for state and local police dogs that have already been trained to detect it are wide-ranging and being tested in court in other states."

Europol Breaks Up Sophisticated Organized Crime Group Smuggling Cigarettes, Drugs Into UK

Sky News (UK) (5/22) reports more than 450 police and customs officers in Spain, the UK, Poland and Lithuania conducted raids last week that led to 22 arrests in a Europol operation code-named "Icebreaker," which began in Lithuania in 2016 and "smashed" an organized crime group that generated "an estimated €680m (£600m) between 2017 and 2019 alone by trafficking drugs and cigarettes into the UK." This is "the biggest" such operation to date in Europe. Proceeds from sales in the U.K. were being "smuggled to Poland where it was laundered via currency exchange offices before being invested in real estate in Spain and other countries." Police arrested a ringleader and "seized cash, diamonds, gold bars, jewellery and luxury vehicles worth €8m."

With inputs from AFP (5/22), The Guardian (UK) (5/22) reports "the British end of the operation was run by HM Revenue and Customs, which said three men were arrested in Coventry in the West Midlands, and had been charged with money-laundering offences. A fourth man, a 42-year-old Lithuanian, was detained on a European arrest warrant on suspicion of money laundering and is facing extradition to Lithuania." Deutsche Welle (DEU) (5/22) also cites AFP and Europol in its coverage.

TECHNOLOGY

CNN: First Responders Excited About Potential Uses Of 5G Technology

CNN (5/22, Liao) reports, "5G isn't just about faster speeds for your smartphone," but "will usher in a wave of new technology that will power the future," and "first responders in particular are excited about 5G's potential." According to CNN, "The new wireless technology, which is starting to pop up in cities across the United States, will allow firefighters to see through smoke, police to instantly track gunshots, and give security professionals a better look at where you're going," and "although first responders are optimistic about 5G's potential, the new technology comes with a host of privacy concerns."

UK Police Say Facial Recognition Technology Prevents Crime

The Guardian (UK) (5/22, Morris) reports, "Facial recognition cameras prevent crime, protect the public and do not breach the privacy of innocent people whose images are captured, a police force has argued." The Guardian adds, "Ed Bridges, an office worker from Cardiff, claims South Wales police violated his privacy and data protection rights by using facial recognition technology on him," but "Jeremy Johnson QC compared automated facial recognition (AFR) to the use of DNA to solve crimes and said it would have had little impact on Bridges." Johnson, "representing the police, said: 'AFR is a further technology that potentially has great utility for the prevention of crime, the apprehension of offenders and the protection of the public.'" The technology "maps faces in a crowd and then compares them with a watch list of images, which can include suspects, missing people and persons of interest to the police."

GLOBAL SECURITY

New Jersey Man Hit With Terror Charges, Talked About Bombing Trump Tower

The AP (5/22, Porter) reports that Jonathan Xie, a 20-year-old New Jersey man, "sought to aid the Islamic militant group Hamas and threatened to 'shoot everybody' at an unspecified pro-Israel demonstration, federal authorities said Wednesday." Xie was "charged with attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, making false statements and transmitting a threat in interstate commerce."

The Hill (5/22, Wise) reports that the FBI "also surveilled Xie when he visited Trump Tower in New York in April, according to the complaint." The Washington Times (5/22, Mordock) reports Xie "later posted, 'I want to bomb Trump Tower' on Instagram and even posted a 'yes/no' poll asking if he should bomb the New York skyscraper accompanied by an emoji of a bomb." Prosecutors said Xie "had not planned a specific attack, but the FBI had been monitoring him since January. He first came on the FBI's radar screen when he posted his support for Hamas online and talked about murdering supporters of Israel." CNN (5/22, Watkins) reports that in April, Xie "talked to an undercover FBI employee online and tried to walk the undercover FBI employee through the process of how to donate to Hamas," according to the complaint.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts Officer Helps Couple Deliver Baby At Home

Boston (5/22, MacNeill) reports, "Three-week-old Maeve McKinnon will always have a story to tell: Her arrival happened so quickly that her parents couldn't make it to the hospital. Instead, she was delivered at home with the help of a police officer and

the EMTs who arrived after him. 'There was zero time,' Arlington officer Brandon Kindle said. 'They were trying to make it. … Little Maeve wanted to make an entrance.'" Boston adds, "It was after 5 a.m. on May 1 when Arlington emergency personnel received the call: A man reporting that his wife had gone into labor at their College Avenue home." Kindle "was nearby and responded," and "inside, he found Audra McKinnon on the kitchen floor." Kindle "said he told Ed McKinnon, Audra's husband, to grab some towels while he donned a pair of gloves. 'One good push, and the beautiful little girl was there,' Kindle said."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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- **South Carolina Police Set Up Sting Operation After Thefts From Lowe's Store**
- **Lawsuit Challenges Police Use Of Facial-Recognition Technology In The UK**
- **Denver, Colorado Officer Honored For Work With Homeless**

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